

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CARACA 02283 271616Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 /018 W

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R 271441Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2159

USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS CARACAS 2283

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, VE

SUBJ: MAJOR PROJECTS: ORINOCO RIVER-CARIBBEAN CANAL

1. THE EXCAVATION OF A WATERWAY TO LINK THE ORINOCO RIVER AND THE CARIBBEAN HAS BEEN DISCUSSED FREQUENTLY IN THE PAST. ON TWO RECENT OCCASIONS, THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS HAS STATED THAT THIS CANAL WOULD NOT BE BUILT, AT LEAST NOT UNITL THE YEAR 2000.

2. A GROUP OF PRIVATE PROMOTERS COMPOSED OF PROMINENT LOCAL BUSINESSMEN HAS NOT PRESENTED A PROJECT TO MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS WHICH IS TO BE FINANCED BY THE PROJECT'S PROMOTERS AND THE MUNICIPALITIES WHICH STAND TO BENEFIT FROM THE PROJECT. ACCORDING TO THE PROMOTERS, THE CANAL WOULD CONNECT THE ORINOCO AT APPROXIMATELY 100 KILOMETERS EAST OF CAICARA DEL ORINOCO, RUN ROUGHLY NORTH-EAST AND WOULD OPEN ON THE CARIBBEAN COAST NEAR BARCELONA.

3. THE CANAL WOULD BE 386 KILOMETERS LONG, 36 METERS WIDE AND 12 METERS DEEP.

4. ALTHOUGH THE EMBASSY CONSIDERS THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS CANAL UNLIKELY, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE RAILROAD PROGRAM WITH WHICH IT WOULD BE IN DIRECT COMPETITION, THE RE-AWAKENING OF A PREVIOUSLY REJECTED PROJECT IS BEING REPORTED FOR THE RECORD.

SHLAUDEMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTRUCTION, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), CANALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CARACA02283
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760075-0764
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976026/aaaaaeuu.tel
Line Count: 52
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: castelsl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUL 2004 by schwenja>; APPROVED <07 SEP 2004 by castelsl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAJOR PROJECTS: ORINOCO RIVER-CARIBBEAN CANAL
TAGS: EWWT, VE
To: STATE COM
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006